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**URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF ABRAM**



**ANNUAL REPORT**

**OF THE**

**MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH**

**FOR THE YEAR 1959**



ABRAM URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL  
1959.

CHAIRMAN ..... Councillor F. Phillips, C.C.  
VICE CHAIRMAN ..... Councillor E.P. Houghton.

MEMBERS

Joseph Ashurst	John Mannion
Daniel Beardsmore	George Simm
John Belshaw	William Whittle
Harold Brown	Ellis Wood, J.P., C.A.
Daniel Hayes	William Wright, J.P.

During 1959, the Health Committee, under the chairmanship of Councillor G. Simm, was composed of all members of the Council.

OFFICERS

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH:  
(Divisional Medical Officer,  
No. 8 Health Division,  
Lancashire County Council).

G.H. POTTER, M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S.,  
L.R.C.P., D.P.H.  
Divisional Health Office,  
3, King Street, Wigan, Lancs.  
Tel. WIGAN 44208.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS:

F.C. RYDING, Cert. R.S.H. and  
S.I.J.B., M.A.P.H.I.  
(Resigned August 1959).

\* J.T. HAMPSON, Cert. R.S.H. and  
S.I.J.B. Meat and Smoke Certs.  
R.S.H.

\* W. KITTS, Certs. Liv. University,  
School of Hygiene in Sanitary  
Science, and Meat and Foods  
Inspection.

\* Commenced duties December 1959.



ABRAM URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

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To the Chairman and Members of the  
Health Committee.

Sir, and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Report on the health of the district for the year 1959 compiled in the form indicated by the Ministry of Health.

I take this opportunity of tendering my best thanks to the officials of the Council and especially to the Public Health Inspector for valuable help and co-operation at all times.

I desire also to express to the members of the Council my appreciation of the courtesy and consideration they have always displayed towards me.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

G. H. POTTER,

Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area: 1,984 acres.

Population (Census, 1951): 6,286.

Estimated Mid-1959 (Registrar-General): 6,190.

Number of inhabited houses at end of 1959 according to Rate

Book: 1,874. Rateable Value: £43,814.

Sum represented by a Penny Rate: £152.

Abram is essentially a colliery district. In addition, agriculture and dairy farming are carried on in the district.

Most of the inhabitants are employed in the coal mining industry but a fair percentage find work in surrounding townships in the textile trade.

VITAL STATISTICS.

		<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
<u>Live Births:</u>				
Legitimate	.....	35	45	80
Illegitimate	.....	2	-	2
Total	...	37	45	82

<u>Still Births:</u>				
Legitimate	.....	-	2	2
Illegitimate	.....	-	-	-
Total	...	-	2	2

<u>Deaths of Infants under</u>				
<u>1 yr. of age:</u>				
Legitimate	.....	2	1	3
Illegitimate	.....	-	-	-
Total	...	2	1	3

<u>Deaths of Infants under</u>				
<u>4 weeks of age:</u>				
Legitimate	.....	1	-	1
Illegitimate	.....	-	-	-
Total	...	1	-	1

Total Deaths from all causes			
and at all ages .....	29	28	57

Vital Statistics, 1959.

Mortality rates per 1,000 est. population -

Total (all forms) -

Crude rate	...	...	...	9.2
Adjusted rate	...	...	...	12.4
Respiratory T.B.	...	...	...	0.16

Malignant neoplasms, etc.

(Cols. 10-15 incl. of S.D.30)	...	0.81
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Live Birth rates per 1,000 est. population -

Crude rate	...	...	...	13.2
Adjusted rate	...	...	...	12.6

Stillbirth rate per 1,000 total births ... 23.8

			Male	Female	Total
Total live and still-births	...	...	37	45	82

Maternal mortality rate per 1,000 total births 11.9

Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births 36.6

Neo-natal mortality rate per 1,000 live births 12.2

Illegitimate live births per cent of total

live births ... 1.6

Maternal deaths (including abortion) ... 1



THE FOLLOWING TABLE SHOWS COMPARATIVE STATISTICS  
IN RESPECT OF THE YEARS 1954-1959.

	Live Births		Deaths (all causes)		Still Births		Maternal Mortality		Infant Mortality			
	No. Registered	Rate per 1000 Popn.	No. Registered	Rate per 1000 Popn.	No. Registered	Rate per 1000 total births	No. of deaths registered	Rate per 1000 total births	Total		Neo-Natal	
									No. of deaths registered	Rate per 1000 live births	No. of deaths registered	Rate per 1000 live births
Year 1959	82	*13.2	57	*9.2	2	23.8	1	11.9	3	36.6	1	9.7
" 1958	103	16.6	57	9.2	4	37.4	Nil	Nil	2	19.4	1	9.7
" 1957	99	15.9	66	10.6	3	29	Nil	Nil	1	10	Nil	Nil
" 1956	98	15.8	68	11.0	1	10	Nil	Nil	4	41	3	31
" 1955	93	14.9	65	10.4	4	41	Nil	Nil	5	54	4	43
" 1954	105	16.7	74	11.8	4	37	Nil	Nil	4	38	3	29
Avg. 5 years 1954-1958	-	16.0	-	10.6	-	30.9	-	Nil	-	32.5	-	22.5

\*Adjusted live birth rate (comparability factor, 0.95) = 12.6 per 1,000.  
Death rate (comparability factor, 1.35) = 12.4 per 1,000



In the next table are shown the chief causes of death and number of deaths from each cause in 1959 as compared with 1958.

TABLE B.

Causes of Death	-1959-			-1958-		
	M.	F.	Ttl.	M.	F.	Ttl.
Tuberculosis (Respiratory) .....	1	-	1	-	-	-
Tuberculosis (Non-Respiratory) ...	-	-	-	-	-	-
Syphilitic disease .....	-	-	-	-	-	-
Diphtheria .....	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough .....	-	-	-	-	-	-
Meningococcal Infections .....	-	-	-	-	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis .....	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles .....	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases .....	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cancer (all types) .....	3	2	5	2	4	6
Leukaemia, Alukaemia .....	-	-	-	-	-	-
Diabetes .....	-	-	-	-	-	-
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System .....	1	4	5	1	4	5
Coronary Disease, Angina .....	5	3	8	3	3	6
Hypertension with Heart Disease ..	-	1	1	2	1	3
Other Heart Disease .....	3	4	7	5	5	10
Other Circulatory Diseases .....	3	2	5	1	3	4
Influenza .....	-	3	3	-	-	-
Pneumonia .....	1	-	1	1	1	2
Bronchitis .....	5	1	6	2	2	4
Other Respiratory Diseases .....	1	-	1	-	-	-
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum ....	-	-	-	-	1	1
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea .....	1	-	1	-	-	-
Nephritis and Nephrosis .....	-	-	-	3	2	5
Hyperplasia of Prostate .....	-	-	-	2	-	2
Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion ..	-	1	1	-	-	-
Congenital malformations .....	1	-	1	-	-	-
Suicide, Accidents .....	-	-	-	5	-	5
All other Causes .....	4	7	11	4	-	4
Total ...			29 28 57	31 26 57		

## 2. GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

### Laboratory Facilities.

Bacteriological examinations are carried out in the Public Health Laboratories at Monsall Hospital, Manchester and at Wigan Infirmary. In view of the closer proximity of the Wigan laboratory, all samples were sent there this year in order to reduce the time lag between collection and delivery for examination. The arrangements are very convenient and satisfactory.

The following specimens were submitted for examination by the Public Health Department:-

3	samples of water.
24	" of milk.
37	faecal specimens.

Chemical examinations are carried out by the City Analyst's Department, Liverpool Corporation and during the year 2 samples of water were submitted for examination.

### Ambulance arrangements.

The Lancashire County Council ambulance service removes all infectious, non-infectious, accident and maternity cases to hospitals, clinics etc.

Ambulances stationed at Hindley and Ashton-in-Makerfield serve Abram, Bickershaw and Bamfurlong wards, whilst ambulances stationed in Leigh usually deal with cases in the Plank Lane Ward; the service is quite adequate and operates with speed and efficiency.

### Hospitals.

There is no hospital within the district and facilities for treatment are in most cases provided at Whelley Isolation Hospital and Astley Sanatorium for infectious diseases and at Leigh and Wigan Infirmaries and Billinge Hospital for general medical treatment.

Maternity cases are provided for at the Billinge Hospital where a modern and well equipped maternity block is maintained; special facilities for the treatment of nervous disorders are also available at this hospital.

Patients suffering from tuberculosis and other respiratory diseases are catered for at the Chest Clinic in Wigan and at special hospitals situated in various parts of the County.

## Maternity and Child Welfare.

The Maternity and Child Welfare Centre is maintained by the County Council, the Divisional Health Committee and the Divisional Medical Officer being responsible for its administration.

The new clinic at 263, Warrington Road, ~~Abram~~, continues to function satisfactorily; the facilities are a great improvement and are much appreciated by the public and the staff.

Ante-natal clinics are held on alternate Thursdays from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. and are conducted by Obstreticians of Consultant status.

Expectant mothers are invited to attend the clinic in order that timely advice or treatment may be gained should this be necessary. That more mothers are learning to appreciate the value of the ante-natal service is evidenced by the continued high attendance throughout the year.

### Attendances at the Ante-natal Clinic during 1959.

No. of Sessions	No. of Individual Mothers attending	Total Attendances
26	106	550

Child Welfare Clinics are held on each Wednesday from 10.0 a.m. to 12.0 a.m. and 1.30 p.m. to 4.0 p.m.; each afternoon session is attended by an Assistant Divisional Medical Officer.

Mothers of infants or children under school age are advised on such matters as feeding, general care of the child, the desirability of obtaining medical treatment and, in this last respect, it is emphasised that responsibility for giving such treatment rests with the general practitioner.

Diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus immunisations and vaccination against smallpox and poliomyelitis are performed at the Clinic on the last two Tuesdays in the month, the first of these days for Diphtheria etc. and the second for Poliomyelitis. Adults up to 40 years of age are by appointment. Many parents now take advantage of this service to protect their children. It should not be assumed however that there is any room for complacency in this respect since many other parents show a disturbing lack of interest or uninformed prejudice. Attention is drawn to smallpox in particular in view of the increasing speed with which this virulent disease may be conveyed from abroad by modern transport, the rapidity with which it spreads, and the high mortality rate or disfigurement it leaves behind. Babies are vaccinated every Wednesday afternoon.

That isolated outbreaks of this disease have quickly been brought under control is due to a large extent to the community having acquired some protection by vaccination; the importance therefore of early and renewed protection of children by this means will be apparent.

Attendances at the Child Welfare Clinic during 1959.

No. of sessions	No. of individual Children attending	Number of Attendances
104	258	2138

School Health.

Periodical examinations of school children in respect of their general health, teeth and cleanliness are carried out in all schools by the School Medical Officer, School Dentist and the Health Visitor.

Minor Ailments.

Minor ailments of school children are treated at White House Clinic, Liverpool Road, Hindley, each Tuesday and Friday mornings.

Note: The Health Visitor is in attendance at the Clinic each morning from 9 - 10 a.m. to give advice. Phone No. 66380.



### 3. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

#### Water Supply.

The district is supplied with upland surface water drawn from the Rivington Aqueduct which is owned by Liverpool Corporation. The supply is constant, maintained at high pressure and chlorinated; the water is reasonably soft and palatable.

In the event of a breakdown in the water supply an emergency deep well supply is obtained from Ince-in-Makerfield.

Two samples of water were submitted for chemical analysis and three for bacteriological examination; all of the results indicated a safe and wholesome supply.

All dwellings within the district have a water supply piped to a tap inside the house.

#### Drainage and Sewerage.

Throughout the district separate systems of drainage are provided for foul sewage and surface water.

The sewage is treated at the Council's sewage works, in screening and settling tanks, and triple contact beds; the effluent obtained is discharged into Aye Brook.

In view of the damage to the walls of the contact beds and alteration of the levels of gravity flow channels, which is due to mining subsidence, concern must be felt as to the present adequacy of the treatment of sewage in the district.

Similarly, mining subsidence has altered the levels of drains and sewers thereby necessitating increased flushing and general maintenance and preventing the conversion of a number of pails and privies to fresh water closets. However steps have been taken toward the provision of a new sewage works and sewerage system and the urgent necessity for this scheme cannot be too strongly emphasised.

New drainage installations and alterations to existing drains are examined and tested as required.

#### Rivers and Streams.

It has not been necessary to take any action in respect of the pollution of rivers and streams.

Sanitary accommodation at the end of 1959.

Number of	privy middens .....	15
" "	closets attached to privy middens ...	26
" "	pail closets .....	21
" "	fresh water closets .....	2016
" "	dry ashpits for refuse .....	Nil
" "	movable ashbins for refuse .....	1874
" "	houses on water carriage system .....	1836

Fresh water closets are provided for all new property erected within the district.

Public Cleansing.

Street scavenging and the removal of house refuse is carried out entirely by the Local Authority.

Ashbins are provided by the local authority, out of rate fund, and these are emptied weekly. Pails are emptied weekly and privies at intervals of two to three weeks; in each instance the structures are afterwards dusted internally with gammexane insecticide powder after emptying.

A driver and four to five loaders operating a Karrier Bantam refuse vehicle are employed approximately four and a half days each week on the collection of refuse from shops and houses. The refuse is disposed of by controlled tipping and in order to reduce to a minimum any nuisance arising from this work paper, rags, woollens etc. are removed from the refuse during collection and at the tip face.

All workmen employed on refuse collection and recovery of salvage receive an incentive bonus.

Materials Salvaged and Sold during the year.

	Tons	Cwts.	Qtrs.	Lbs.
Waste paper .....	34	15	0	14
Rags .....	1	5	3	5
Woollens .....		1	3	7
Aluminium .....		1	3	15
Lead .....		6	1	4
Copper and brass ..		8	1	13
Iron .....	6	4	0	0

### Sanitary inspections of the area.

Number of premises visited .....	462
" " visits .....	945
" " nuisances discovered .....	231
" " nuisances abated .....	245
" " informal notices served .....	84
" " statutory notices served .....	15
" " legal proceedings .....	NIL

### Summary of Visits and Inspections during 1959.

Accumulation of Rubbish .....	30
Bakehouses .....	2
Caravans .....	10
Closet conversions .....	-
Dairies and Milkshops .....	12
Dirty and Verminous houses and Problem families .....	18
Ditches and Watercourses .....	1
Dwelling houses under Public Health Acts.Inspections.	96
Dwelling houses under Public Health Acts.Revisits ..	206
Dwelling houses under Housing Acts. Inspections .....	12
Dwelling houses under Housing Acts. Visits .....	110
Drainage .....	14
Factories .....	8
Farms .....	14
Food Hygiene Regulations .....	16
Food preparing premises .....	1
Food Inspection .....	5
Fried fish shops .....	3
Ice cream premises .....	10
Infectious diseases inc. Food Poisoning and Dysentery	106
Interviews with Owners, Agents, Contractors etc. ....	80
Licensed premises .....	2
Litter .....	30
Milk samples .....	24
Miscellaneous .....	34
Offices .....	2
Outworkers .....	2
Overcrowding .....	56
Petroleum Regulations .....	10
Piggeries .....	3
Refuse Collection .....	72
Refuse Disposal .....	38
Rent Act. Inspections .....	18
Rent Act. Visits .....	54
Rodent Control .....	27
Salvage .....	8
Schools .....	2
Shops Act Inspections .....	56
Spoilbanks .....	38
Street Vendors and Hawkers .....	3
Smoke Observations .....	10
Water Samples .....	2
Water Supply .....	2



Summary of Defects dealt with during 1959.

Defect	Found	* Remedied
<u>HOUSING</u>		
Roofs leaking .....	32	34
Chimney stacks not weathertight or defective .....	1	1
Walls: defective brickwork .....	2	2
"    rising damp .....	4	8
"    damp penetrating .....	20	28
Stone cills defective .....	-	-
Thresholds defective .....	-	-
Doors dilapidated or not weathertight .....	4	10
Window frames dilapidated or not weathertight .....	26	40
Sashcords broken .....	8	6
Defective solid floors .....	12	16
"    wood floors .....	-	-
"    skirtings .....	-	-
Wallplaster perished .....	30	32
Ceiling plaster perished or sagging .....	4	4
Staircases defective .....	-	-
Firegrates defective .....	-	-
Washboilers defective .....	-	-
Chimney flues defective or causing emission of smoke into rooms .....	-	-
Water supply insufficient or defective .....	6	6
Miscellaneous .....	8	8
<u>Drainage:</u>		
Insanitary sinks .....	-	-
Sink waste pipes defective .....	1	1
Eavesgutters defective .....	18	22
Rainwater pipes defective .....	4	6
Drains defective .....	2	2
Drains blocked .....	14	14
Paving insufficient or defective .....	-	-
<u>Sanitary Accommodation:</u>		
Water closet structure defective .....	4	4
"    pan defective .....	2	2
"    cistern defective .....	4	4
"    seat broken .....	-	-
Absence of water supply to W.C. ....	28	26
Pails defective .....	-	-
Privy defective .....	-	-

\*Owing to some defects found in the preceeding year not being remedied until this year, more defects are shown as remedied than found in some instances.

#### Shops and Offices.

All shops within the district are inspected twice annually on behalf of the Lancashire County Council who are the Shops Act authority and the Urban District Council who are the Sanitary Authority for the purposes of the Act.

Offices are also kept under observation and inspected periodically.

#### Camping Sites.

There are no camping sites within the district and on those occasions when van dwellers have made unauthorised use of land they have been quickly removed in view of their unclean habits.

#### Clean Air Act, 1956.

Contact is maintained between the Public Health Inspector and the Works Managers with regard to smoke abatement and the provisions of the Act are under discussion during the current year.

There are two factory chimneys in the district and during the year neither were seen to be causing offence; the furnaces are fed by chain grate mechanical stokers and the plant is generally well maintained.

#### Spoilbanks.

During the year many inspections of colliery spoilbanks were carried out and local officials of the National Coal Board were interviewed in respect of nuisances arising therefrom.

One colliery spoilbank on fire was treated during the year. Colliery officials have agreed to take steps to increase the water supply available to the area.

#### Swimming Baths and Pools.

There are none in the district.

#### Disinfestation of Verminous Premises.

Eighteen premises found to be infested with vermin were sprayed with an insecticide containing 5 per cent D.D.T. and Pyrethrins; the initial treatments were followed up with a second spray and this method has proved to be sufficient.

### Offensive Trades.

No offensive trades are carried on in the district.

### Common Lodging Houses.

There are none in the district.

### Factories.

Eight visits were paid to factories under the Factories Act 1937, and conditions were found to be generally satisfactory.

#### 1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health.

Premises	No. on Register	Number of		
		In-spections	Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
1. Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities .....	2	2	-	-
2. Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority .....	6	5	-	-
3. Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises) .....	1	1	-	-
TOTAL ...	9	8	-	-

#### 2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found. NIL.

### Canal Boats.

The only mooring wharf in the district is now used almost exclusively by the British Waterways engineers in connection with canal maintenance and no canal boats were inspected during the year.

### Schools.

Water closet accommodation in all schools is of the fresh water type each with its own flushing cistern. Regular lime-washing of all conveniences is arranged for by the Education Authority.

All schools in the area are supplied with water from the mains.

### Rodent Control.

One trained part-time operator is employed on rodent control work approximately two days per week. The treatment of infestations found at dwelling houses is carried out free of charge but a charge is made for the treatment of business premises.

The annual 10 per cent test baiting of the sewerage system was carried out and proved to be negative; the authority was then exempted from further sewer treatments during the year.

The sewage disposal works and refuse tips are treated systematically and infestations kept to a minimum.

The following table summarises the action relating to rodent control work during the year:-

	TYPE OF PROPERTY		
	Non-agricultural		Agric- ultural
	Dwelling houses	All other	
(a) No. of properties in district	1874	213	25
(b) " " inspected	440	150	17
(c) Total inspections carried out (incl. re-inspections) ...	501	154	32
(d) No. of properties inspected which were found to be infested by:-			
Rats - major .....	1	1	-
minor .....	13	3	-
Mice - major .....	-	-	-
minor .....	16	2	-
(e) No. of infested properties treated	31	6	-
(f) Total treatments carried out (incl. re-treatments).....	31	6	-
(g) No. of "Block" control schemes carried out .....	-	-	-
(h) Any other action - 10% Test bait of Council's sewers carried out.			



#### 4. HOUSING.

##### Housing Repair.

The township consists chiefly of working class houses built in terraces about sixty to seventy years ago and prior to the operation of building byelaw control.

Many of these houses are of the open kitchen and scullery type having two fair sized bedrooms or one large bedroom and two single bedrooms.

Factors contributing to the rapid deterioration of a large proportion of the privately owned dwelling houses in the district are mining subsidence which is responsible for much damage to structures and neglect over many years which has resulted in an accumulation of disrepair.

##### Overcrowding.

Some two hundred and thirty six applications for council houses remain to be dealt with and of these one hundred and two are applicants not having a house of their own. During the year four casual re-lets were let to applicants in lodgings, whilst the number of new applicants living in lodgings was twenty six. It is however felt that the worst cases of overcrowding have been dealt with.

A further twenty flats completed and let during the year essentially for slum clearance purposes also reduced the size of the general needs list and abated several cases of overcrowding.

During the year ten houses were demolished and a further fifty persons displaced under the Council's slum clearance programme. All displaced families were offered council house accommodation.

In consideration of this problem it is interesting to note that private building which it was anticipated would relieve the burden on local authorities is virtually non-existent in this district owing to the scarcity of safe building land and the natural reluctance of potential house owners to risk building under such circumstances.

At the end of the year work was in progress on the erection of four flats and twelve houses for slum clearance purposes, and eight houses for general needs; a further twelve houses and four flats for slum clearance and eight houses for general needs were contemplated.

##### HOUSING STATISTICS.

<u>Number of new houses erected during the year:-</u>		<u>Houses</u>	<u>Flats</u>
(i)	By the local authority .....	Nil	20
(ii)	By other local authorities .....	Nil	Nil
(iii)	By other bodies or persons .....	Nil	Nil

1. Inspection of dwelling houses during the year:-
- (1) (a) Total no. of dwelling houses inspected formally or informally for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ... 110
- (b) No. of inspections, formal or informal, made for the purpose ..... 375
- (2) Dwelling houses unfit for human habitation and not capable at reasonable expense of being rendered fit:
- (a) No. found during year ..... Nil
- (b) No. (or estimated no.) at end of year .... 152
- (3) No. of dwelling houses found during the year to be not in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation but capable of being rendered fit ..... 96

(2) <u>Houses Demolished:-</u> In Clearance Areas:	Houses Demolished	Displaced during Year	
		Persons	Families
(1) Houses unfit for human habitation	Nil	Nil	Nil
(2) Houses included by reason of bad arrangement, etc. ....	Nil	Nil	Nil
(3) Houses on land acquired under Sect. 43(2), Housing Act, 1957 ..	Nil	Nil	Nil
<u>Not in Clearance Areas:</u>			
(4) As a result of formal or informal procedure under Sect. 17 (1), Housing Act, 1957 .....	10	50	18
(5) Local Authority owned houses certified unfit by the Medical Officer of Health .....	Nil	Nil	Nil
(6) Houses unfit for human habitation where action has been taken under local Acts .....	Nil	Nil	Nil
(7) Unfit houses included in Unfitness Orders .....	Nil	Nil	Nil
3. <u>Unfit Houses Closed:-</u>	Number		
(1) Under Sect. 16(4), 17(1) and 35(1), Housing Act, 1957 .....	Nil	Nil	Nil
(2) Under Sect. 17(3) and 26, Housing Act, 1957 .....	Nil	Nil	Nil
(3) Parts of buildings closed under Sect. 18, Housing Act, 1957 .....	Nil	Nil	Nil

4. <u>Unfit Houses Made Fit and Houses in which Defects were Remedied:-</u>		By Owner	By Local Authority
(1) After informal action by local authority ...		65	-
(2) After formal notice under:			
(a) Public Health Acts .....		7	Nil
(b) Sect. 9 and 16, Housing Act, 1957 .....		Nil	Nil
(3) Under Sect. 24, Housing Act, 1957 .....		Nil	-
5. <u>Unfit houses in Temporary Use (Housing Act, 1957):-</u> <u>Position at end of year:</u>		Number of houses (1)	Number of separate dwellings contained in column (1) (2)
	(1) Retained for temporary accommodation -		
	(a) Under Section 48 .....	Nil	Nil
	(b) Under Section 17(2) .....	Nil	Nil
	(c) Under Section 46 .....	Nil	Nil
	(2) Licensed for temporary occupation under Sections 34 or 53 .....	Nil	-
6. <u>Purchase of Houses by Agreement:-</u>		Number of houses (1)	Number of occupants of houses in Col.(1) (2)
Houses in Clearance Areas other than those included in confirmed Clearance Orders or Compulsory Purchase Orders, purchased during the year .....		Nil	Nil
7. <u>Housing Act, 1949, and Housing (Financial Provisions) Act, 1958 - Improvement grants, etc.</u>			
Authority has resolved not to make Improvement grants.			



## 5. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

### (a) Milk Supply.

An adequate supply of milk is produced within, or brought into, the district.

The Milk (Special Designation)(Specified Areas) (No. 2) Order, 1958 came into operation on the 1st October, 1958. The order specifies Abram as an area within which milk sold by retail must be "specially designated" milk (i.e. "pasteurised", "sterilised" or "tuberculin tested" milk).

During 1959, 24 samples of milk were submitted for bacteriological and tuberculosis-biological examinations; the results were as follows:-

	No. of Samples	<u>RESULTS</u>		No result
		Satis. (Neg)	Un- satis. (Pos)	
(a) <u>Raw Milk</u> -				
(i) Tuberculosis - biological tests .....	4	4	-	-
(ii) Methylene Blue reduction test .....	4	4	-	-
(iii) B. Coli examinations .....	4	4	-	-
(iv) Sediment tests .....	-	-	-	-
		(Neg)	(Pos)	
(b) <u>"Heat treated" milk</u> -				
(i) Tuberculosis .....	-	-	-	-
<u>"Pasteurised"</u> -				
(ii) Phosphatase test .....	5	5	-	-
(iii) Methylene Blue reduction test .....	5	5	-	-
<u>"Sterilised"</u> -				
(iv) Turbidity test .....	2	2	-	-

Reg. 19 and 20. Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949.  
Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925.

No action was taken during the year under these regulations.

### Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949-54.

The number of registered distributors operating from:-

- (a) Own dairies in the district ..... Nil.
- (b) Shops in the district other than dairies ... 27.
- (c) Premises outside the district ..... 6.

### The Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949-54.

Under these regulations 12 licences were issued in respect of the distribution of Tuberculin Tested Milk.

The Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and  
Sterilised) Regulations, 1949-53

21 Pasteurised and 41 Sterilised milk licences were issued to dealers under these regulations.

(b) Meat and other foods.

Before the de-control of slaughtering all meat coming into the district was inspected before leaving the Ministry of Food depot at Wigan; since then most of the meat retailed in the district has been purchased off the hook at licensed slaughterhouses in the Wigan and Liverpool areas.

There are no slaughterhouses, restaurants, hotels or food factories in the district.

Routine inspections are made of meat shops, etc. and the Clean Meat Regulations are enforced.

No legal proceedings were necessary during the year.

(c) Food Inspection.

During the year a small quantity of various foods was found to be unfit for human consumption; these were all voluntarily surrendered and disposed of by burying or incineration.

(d) Food premises.

The following tables show (i) the number of food premises by type and (ii) those food premises which must be registered under the Lancashire County Council (General Powers) Act, 1938.

(i) No. of Food Premises by type of business.

General grocers and provision dealers .....	29.
Greengrocers and fruiterers (incl. those selling wet fish, game etc.) .....	2.
Fishmongers (incl. those selling poultry, game etc.) .....	Nil.
Meat shops (butchers, purveyors of cooked and preserved meats, tripe etc.) .....	4.
Bakers and/or confectioners .....	1.
Fried fish shops .....	7.
Shops selling mainly sugar confectionery, minerals, ice cream etc. ....	6.
Licensed premises, clubs, canteens, restaurants, cafes, snack bars and similar catering establishments .....	16

(ii) No. of Food Premises by type of business registered under the Lancashire County Council (General Powers) Act, 1938.

Type of Business	No. registered at 31.12.58	No. of inspections of registered premises during year
Manufacture and sale of sausages and other meat products .....	3	3
Storage and sale of ice cream ....	15	15
Hawkers - fruit and vegetables storage premises .....	3	5

(e) Ice Cream (Heat Treatment etc.) Regulations, 1947-52.

No ice cream is manufactured within the district. All ice cream sold in shops is manufactured by reputable firms and is pre-wrapped.

Routine inspection of retail shops was carried out.

(f) Food Sampling, Adulteration etc.

The County Council is the authority responsible for carrying out the provisions of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938 relating to food sampling and I am indebted to the County Medical Officer of Health for particulars of the undermentioned food samples taken in this district during the year, and submitted for analysis:-

13 Milk samples (one of which was a sample of Channel Islands milk)	4 Pickles
4 Dried fruit	2 Sauces
1 Christmas pudding	1 Rice
	1 Ground Almonds
	1 Mixed peel

The samples were submitted to the County Analyst for analysis, who reports that they were genuine with the exception of a sample of Ground Almonds, which was found to have a stale taste and an acid value of oil 9.5. The stock of this product was withdrawn from sale.

(g) Clean Food.

Byelaws under section 15 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938 are in force. The Public Health Inspector has made frequent visits to food premises and there appears to have been a general improvement in the standard of hygiene observed by persons engaged in

the industry. The practice of selling soil vegetables and such articles as firewood and firelighters alongside other foods continues, however, to be an undesirable feature.

(h) Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955.

The work of implementing the Food Hygiene Regulations has proceeded satisfactorily during the year and discussion with shopkeepers regarding the effect of the Regulations was carried out.

Much of the work carried out during the year was done voluntarily.

No formal action was taken.

(i) Licensed premises.

During the year further representations have been made to the owners of licensed premises in respect of the provision of new sanitary accommodation including washing facilities.

The importance of glass sterilisation continues to be emphasised.

(j) Food Poisoning.

Three individual isolated cases of *Salmonella typhimurium* were notified during the year.

It was not possible to identify the sources of infection.



## 6. CONTROL AND PREVALENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Cases of infectious disease requiring hospital treatment are removed to Whelley Hospital and Astley Sanatorium.

The number of cases of notifiable diseases was exceptionally small during the year, except Measles, 90 cases being notified as against 15 in 1958.

No cases of diphtheria, but 4 cases of scarlet fever, were notified during the year.

Four cases of dysentery and three cases of food poisoning were investigated.

Supplies of Diphtheria Anti-toxin are kept at the Divisional Health Office and at the local hospitals; this is always available to medical practitioners.

Free immunisation against diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus and vaccination against smallpox and poliomyelitis is provided for any pre-school or school child and is performed by the general medical practitioner or by the Medical Officer at the Child Welfare Clinic.

The following statistics show the number of children who were immunised and vaccinated during the year 1959:-

<u>Type</u>	<u>Pre-School Children</u>	<u>School Children</u>
Triple Antigen (Diphtheria, Whooping Cough and Tetanus)	67	Nil
Diphtheria Reinforcing Injections	Nil	Nil
Poliomyelitis: Primary	132	298
Reinforcing	110	333
Smallpox Vaccinations	42	1

No preliminary tests and no post Schick tests were undertaken.

No local action has been taken with regard to the use of measles serum for prophylaxis or attenuation, and there are no existing facilities for the typing of pneumococci and for the provision of appropriate type serum.

The general standard of cleanliness in the district remains high; the few cases of head lice dealt with at the clinic were successfully treated with D.D.T. emulsion.

## Disinfection.

Disinfection of premises and infected materials is carried out by the staff of the Public Health Department.

Where cases of infectious disease have occurred, premises are dealt with on release from isolation, or removal to hospital, or in the event of death.

During 1959, no housos were disinfected.

Formaldehyde solution or gas generators are used for the disinfection of premises; articles which are infected or have been exposed to infection are similarly dealt with or disinfected by steam, or destroyed, according to the nature or value of the article.

Steam sterilisation facilities are available at Hindley U.D.C. depot by arrangement with the Council.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1959.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES	Total cases at all ages	Cases notified by Age Periods - Years									
		0-	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	25 and over	Age unknown
Whooping cough	3	-	-	1	-	1	1	-	-	-	-
Measles (excluding rubella)	90	8	9	8	10	18	37	-	-	-	-
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Food poisoning	4	0-	5-		15-		45-		65 and over		Age unknown
		1	1		2		-		-		-
Tuberculosis - Respiratory	2	-	-		1		1		-		-
Total	99										



## Tuberculosis.

The treatment of Tuberculosis is under the control of the Regional Hospital Board and cases in Abram attend the Chest Clinic situated at Millgate, Wigan, as out patients or are admitted to an appropriate hospital for special treatment.

During 1959, two new cases of pulmonary tuberculosis were notified; no deaths were recorded.

Notification of the disease in the district is quite satisfactory and no action has been necessary under section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936 relating to the compulsory removal to hospital of tuberculosis patients.

### New Cases of Tuberculosis in Age Groups.

Age Periods		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
		M.	F.	M.	F.
Years.					
1-	.....	-	-	-	-
3-	.....	-	-	-	-
5-	.....	-	-	-	-
10-	.....	-	-	-	-
15-	.....	-	-	-	-
20-	.....	-	1	-	-
25-	.....	-	-	-	-
30-	.....	-	-	-	-
45-	.....	-	-	-	-
55-	.....	-	1	-	-
65-	.....	-	-	-	-
Total ...		-	2	-	-
		2		-	

There is no evidence of any excessive incidence of, or mortality from tuberculosis, in any particular occupation in the district.

### Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925.

No action was taken under these regulations relating to tuberculosis employees in the milk trade.

## Cancer.

3 deaths (2 males and 1 female) were certified as due to cancer during the year, compared with 6 in 1958.

Facilities for radium treatment are available to Abram residents at the Radium Institute, Manchester and at Wigan Infirmary.

National Assistance Act, 1948.

No action was taken during 1959 under Section 47 of this Act.





